

## **PANDEMIC FLU UPDATE**

### **Second phase of H1N1 vaccinations**

Following last week's announcement regarding the second phase of H1N1 vaccinations, the NHSE and GPC have begun discussions for the vaccination arrangements for the under 5s, although formal negotiations are yet to commence.

Information about the second phase of H1N1 negotiations is available on the DH website: [http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/Vaccinationprogramme/DH\\_108850](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publichealth/Flu/Swineflu/InformationandGuidance/Vaccinationprogramme/DH_108850)

**DO NOT START TO VACCINATE UNDER 5s NOT AT-RISK UNTIL NEGOTIATIONS ARE CONCLUDED. DOING THIS PREMATURELY UNDERMINES NEGOTIATION.**

### **H1N1 vaccinations for private patients in the priority groups**

Last week, the DH also announced that private primary care providers are now able to obtain the H1N1 flu vaccine from PCTs in order to vaccinate private patients in the priority groups, as well as frontline healthcare staff providing direct patient care.

Further information is available in the statement from the BMA's private practice committee: [http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent\\_medical\\_practice/h1n1fluvaccine.jsp](http://www.bma.org.uk/employmentandcontracts/independent_medical_practice/h1n1fluvaccine.jsp)

### **Updated guidance on mental health services**

The DH has published guidance on mental health services to support mental health trusts and other specialist mental health service providers implementing their plans for responding to the pandemic.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_109172](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_109172)

### **Exercise Peak Practice: national summary**

This is a national summary providing an overview of ten regional exercises which documents the high-level areas for further action. The exercise confirmed the extent and depth of planning that have already taken place in the NHS in preparing for an influenza pandemic.

[http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH\\_108948](http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_108948)